ROBBERY; THEFT CHARGED S-1 1-9/68

Key Witness in Plot Probe Arrested Here

Vernon W. Bundy, a key witness against Clay L. Shaw in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination, was arrested yesterday on charges of armed robbery and theft.

Bundy, a 29-year-old Negro who gave his address as 4039 Athis ct., testified last year at a preliminary hearing for Shaw that he saw Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald together on the Lake Pontchartrain seawall during the summer of 1963. Oswald was identified by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of the President.

Shaw since has been indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury for conspiracy in the assassination.

AT THE hearing Bundy identified photos of both Shaw and Oswald, and said that he saw Shaw pass a roll of bills to the man identified as Oswald.

Bundy appeared today before Judge Frank Shea in magistrate court and was ordered held on $50,000 bond in connection with the armed robbery case and $750 in the theft case.

Handcuffed before the judge, Bundy said he would be represented by attorney Rudolph Becker Jr.

Bundy was arrested about 4:30 p. m. yesterday by two police officers, Ptn. Charles Diesel and Daniel O'Neil, at the Lafitte Tavern, 1935 Orleans, in what Sgt. George Slicho, who supervised the investigation, said was a "routine bar check."

Bundy was seated at the bar about 4:35 p.m., but with no drink in front of him, the officer noted. They remembered Bundy was wanted in connection with two recent crimes, and on questioning, determined the man was Bundy.

He was booked with armed robbery of Harry Alexander, 70-year-old Negro, of 728 N. Prieur, at 9 p.m. Christmas Eve, in which $30, a radio and 22-caliber rifle with a total value of $47 was taken.

BUNDY ALSO was booked with the theft of $25 from the purse of Elaine Leary, Negro, 32, of 2226 Dumaine, at her residence at 1 a.m. Christmas morning. In this case, said the officers, Bundy snatched the money from the purse and ran from the house.

Both Alexander and Elaine Leary identified Bundy, sometimes known as "Legs," according to police.